

The Editorial Page of The Daily Ardmoreite

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BERT LOVE, Editor

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Ardmoreite Means "Ardmore Right!"

WILSON WILL HAVE INNING

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS the president's opponents have had a sort of "open season" of criticism of him and his policies and proposals. While he was busy in the solution of the world's biggest problem a large number of his fellow countrymen were engaged in the easiest of all tasks—finding fault. So mean and petty and spiteful has been some of this carping that one can hardly escape believing its authors would have found as much satisfaction in his failure (if he had failed) as other more patriotic Americans have derived from his successes.

But a few weeks hence the president is to tour the country and meet friends and foes face to face and give the American people an account of his stewardship. He will at the same time doubtless afford them some understanding of the tremendous difficulties that confronted him in the peace conference and submit to them the greatest of all modern achievements in statesmanship—the League of Nations.

Those who have misunderstood, those who have judged hastily and those who have been misled will have the truth from the president's lips and will be convinced. Only the partisan and the narrow traditionalist may be expected to remain proof against facts and reason.

JIM WATSON FOR PRESIDENT!

IF any further evidence were needed as to the predilections and affiliations of the "bosses" in the republican party than is supplied by their own records, Gifford Pinchot, progressive republican and close friend of the late President Roosevelt, supplies it. In a recent speech before the Republican Presidential Club at Cambridge, Mass., Pinchot said of the G. O. P. leaders:

"The reactionaries are enemies of the people, for they are owned and controlled by the special interests which keep the cost of living high and continually drive it higher, Crane, Harding, Watson and their like, and Penrose, the flower of the flock, are the little brothers of the profiteers. They believe in money first and human welfare, if at all, afterward. Without such men as these the great monopolies could never have been formed."

At another point in his speech, Pinchot said:

"How far these men have misread the signs of the times is almost incredible. For example, during the sessions of the republican national committee in Chicago last March, the man most discussed as a candidate for the presidency was Jim Watson of Indiana, a candidate who would be little more acceptable to the average republican voter than John D. Rockefeller or Penrose himself. I was there, and I know."

Chairman Hays of the republican national committee informs the world that his party "has carried the flag and made the music for the Union." Yes, the G. O. P. has paraded with the flag for a long time and has furnished some music full of discords.

OKLAHOMA OFFICIALS ALL FOR LEAGUE OF NATIONS

(George McQuaid in Dallas News)

Many state officials and numerous district and community officials of Oklahoma freely, frankly and emphatically expressed their opinion as to the League of Nations covenant when asked for their views and their opinions as to the sentiment in Oklahoma on this question. The opinions were almost unanimous to the effect that the league covenant should be adopted. They were almost one mind in the assertion that the people of Oklahoma are practically unanimous in favor of the league. They generally expressed the belief that no public man in Oklahoma can hope to be returned or elected to office if he makes an issue of the league by opposing it. This latter of course applied to members of congress and of the United States senate who will have to vote on ratification of the league. Even those who are not sure that the league is a good thing said that the people of Oklahoma are for it and that it would amount to political suicide for any senator or member of the house of representatives from this state to oppose ratification of the covenant.

Discussion of Gore's Attitude

Of course most of this reference was because of the report that Senator Gore is understood to be wobbly on the question, if not adverse to the covenant. Senator Gore's term of office will expire on the fourth day of March, 1921, and the primary election

of next year will determine whether he is to be returned to the senate. A number of the public men interviewed said they do not believe Senator Gore will oppose the covenant to the extent of going on record against it. Some of them do not believe he will oppose it in any manner. Some of these believe he is wrongly counted among the possible opponents of the covenant and others declare that he is too good a politician to do anything of the sort.

Governor J. B. A. Robertson said the people of Oklahoma are almost of one mind in favor of the League of Nations and that the little voice made by opponents to the covenant is due not to the number of the opponents, but to their scarcity. "Oklahoma is devoted to the principle that is involved in this league," said Governor Robertson, "and the people of this state may be counted upon to insist on its ratification."

Former Governor Lee Cruce of Ardmore gave his expression of opinion and said that he knows of no faction or element of the citizenship that is opposed to the covenant. "There are occasional individuals everywhere who are opposed to progressive and worthy measures," said he, "and it is possible that some such men are making some stir about the league covenant. The state of Oklahoma, however, is 99 per cent in favor of the League of Nations."

DISILLUSIONED "ROBINS"

IN THE ATTITUDE and actions of Senators Lodge, Knox and a few of their close associates in the fight against the League of Nations there has been an implication that they constitute the republican party as well as the sole source of authority in making treaties.

Senator McCumber's repudiation of their leadership and his espousal of the league was the first disillusionment vouchsafed to these "makers of destiny." Now come some of the most influential republicans in the country to urge the Senatorial Tailors of Tooley Street to regard the wishes of some hundreds of thousands of other members of the party by whom the opposition to the League of Nations is deemed both distasteful and disastrous.

This little cabal of senators have not thus far been moved by considerations of patriotism, but they may now be expected to pay some heed to threats of defection in the ranks of their party. Their whole conduct has been such that it is not unfair to believe they would rather withdraw from the fight on the league than be withdrawn from the senate.

Senator Frank Brandegee of Connecticut announces his determination to quit the republican party if that organization approves the League of Nations. That is an idle threat, as Mr. Brandegee knows well that his party organization, as constituted at present, is opposed to the league. But if the Connecticut senator should find it necessary to carry out his threat, where on earth would he land? Verily, he would be a man without a party. From his boyhood the gentleman from the nutmeg state has been a pampered youth, his father having been "boss" of New London and all that end of the state, rich in world's goods and powerful in politics. It was "Old Man" Brandegee, as the writer happens to know personally, whose domineering influence put Son Frank into the running and got him into the senate. Frank has been always a "woman-hater" and never has taken a wife, so he would be lonesome indeed should he leave his first and only love, the standpat G. O. P.

President Wilson, who will be back home in a day or so, will have something to say that will be worth hearing or reading. Much of the palaver anent the League of Nations, up to date, has been either politics or piffle.

One of our esteemed Lawton contemporaries, the News, worries because we devoted some editorial space to the fact that we were handed a cabbage some days ago. The Lawton News, in its comments thereon, tries to hand us a lemon, but we have a large supply already received, and therefore we decline to accept the proffer.

Senator Lodge is finding the road he is treading as leader of his party in the senate a rocky route. On one hand he is beset by Senator Knox, Chairman Hays and others, who are declaring that the League of Nations is not a partisan or political issue. The next day he is attacked by Senators Borah, Poindexter and others, who tell him that if the G. O. P. hasn't the backbone to make it a party issue, they will establish a party next year to make it a party issue. The Massachusetts senator will need enough oil to pour on the turbulent waters within the next year to send the price soaring to new heights.

Senators Lodge and Knox and Chairman Hays all declare in a loud voice that the League of Nations is not a partisan issue, then do their utmost to make it such by lining up their followers against it. Every "robin" of the famous thirty-seven was a senator of the G. O. P.

Republicans began by asking "reservations" in the treaty of peace and have ended by proposing "reservations" in the Knox resolution.

Now that the "progressives" in congress have been crossed with republicans there ought to be a name for the hybrid product. "Regressives" is offered as a suggestion. It has the merit of being different by only one letter from "retrogressives."

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN

By GENE BYRNES



take up with the chairman of the Democratic State Committee the propriety and advisability of calling the committee together to express the views of that body and investigate reports from the offices of the two United States senators from Oklahoma which are so divergent and apparently irreconcilable as to the attitude of the people of Oklahoma on the league covenant.

"I do not believe there are one per cent of the people of Oklahoma opposed to the league," said General Barrett, "and those who are generally the bolshevik and anarchistic element of the population. Of course there are honorable exceptions, but the generality of such little opposition to the league as seems to exist is to be found among men who resisted the draft and otherwise obstructed the orderly processes of the government in time of war. I consider the attitude of the senators in Washington who are obstructing or preparing to obstruct the ratification of the league covenant to be on a par with the action of the Roman senate that slew Caesar. The United States senate is a club for old men, and those who are opposing the league are not in touch with our era for the views of the masses of the people."

M. E. Temp of Muskogee, lieutenant governor and spoken of often as a probable candidate for governor next election, declared that he has talked with men of all walks of life in all parts of Oklahoma at very frequent intervals for many years and that he has found as few who are opposed to ratification of the league covenant as to make their number of no consequence at all. "It is a ridiculous error that indicates that any considerable percentage of the people of Oklahoma are opposed to the League of Nations," said Governor Trapp. "On the contrary, they are for it and they have no use for any man in public life who tries to find reasons for opposing the league."

Judge Smith C. Matson of the criminal court of appeals, resident of Ardmore, declared that the league covenant has the approval of the people of Oklahoma and that the alleged opposition to it is slight and of no consequence. Tom C. Waldron of Shawnee, democrat and speaker of the house of representatives of the Oklahoma legislature, said there are few opponents to the league covenant in his district or in the state so far as he has ascertained. He does not believe that the opposition to the league is worthy of attention and he asserted that in his opinion about the most unpopular position that can be taken by a public man in Oklahoma would be to oppose ratification of the league covenant.

Russell Says People Want It.

Campbell Russell of Muskogee, member of the Oklahoma corporation commission, spoken of as a probable candidate for the democratic nomination for governor of the state, and one of the most aggressive and enthusiastic supporters of the initiative and referendum in the state, said that he is for the league and that all his acquaintances with very few exceptions are for it. He declared when asked his view of the probable opposition by Senator Gore that if Senator Gore desires to assure his defeat for renomination he will oppose the league covenant. But he added that he does not expect the senator to do anything of the kind, for he considers him too good a politician to take such a position.

Frank M. Gault, farmer, with large interests in western Oklahoma, recently a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor and lately chairman of the state board of agriculture, said it is a laughing matter, the very idea that anybody would think there is considerable sentiment in Oklahoma opposing the League of Nations. "Why, even the republicans are shying at the issue that some of their men in Washington are trying to raise," he declared, "and there is not only no chance that Oklahoma people are opposed to the league, but there is no chance in Oklahoma politics for any man who does oppose it."

Joe H. Hull, former assistant attorney general and now a lawyer in Muskogee, said the Lions' club of that city had discussed the league and that two prominent men of Muskogee had defended it and two other prominent men of the city had delivered addresses opposing it. The arguments were interesting, Mr. Hull said, and were heard with interest by members of the club, but he declared that the sentiment of the people of his section of the state is overwhelmingly in favor of ratification of the covenant.

Ferguson Finds Some Opposition. Walter Ferguson, former state senator from Alfalfa county, in the wheat belt of northern Oklahoma, a republican and publicist, said there is some sentiment in his former senatorial district against the league, coming from some of the farmers who wanted a higher price fixed for wheat and who have been more or less opposed to the draft law and to some other measures of the government in the conduct of the war. It is his belief that some of

the letters that Senator Gore is alleged to have received opposing the league covenant have come from that section of the state. He points out that Senator Gore was active in behalf of the wheat farmers in their efforts to get a higher price fixed for their wheat at the time the government committee was considering that question.

Bayard T. Hainer, a former justice of the supreme court of Oklahoma territory, a republican, now a lawyer at Oklahoma City, said the league is contrary to the spirit of this republic and that it is subversive of the principles of the constitution. He fears that its tendency will be toward internationalism and that patriotism and love of country will suffer under its influence.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BOYS

The Shawnee News-Herald, published by H. G. Spaulding, covered itself with glory yesterday while covering the soldier boys with the same thing, when it issued an 18-page "Home Coming Number," containing the roster of all Pottawatomie county soldiers and sailors, with pictures of each unit or departing group. That paper will be kept and handed down as an heirloom in many families.

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HEADLINE HISTORY

of the WORLD WAR

by Cushing Stetson

What Happened July 7.

(Copyright 1919, New Era Features)

1914
Kaiser, boards Imperial Yacht Hohenzollern for annual cruise off Norway * * * Extraordinary military activity in Austria-Hungary * * * General Leonard Wood ordered to command Department of the East at New York.

1915
Germans shift ten divisions to western front for Gallia drive * * * Russians holding Galicia * * * Fish losses, poll gains cost frightful British losses.

1916
Japan and Russia sign new treaty to maintain statu quo * * * Congress asked to investigate German Alliance * * * Employee of J. P. Morgan & Company confesses giving war order information to German embassy * * * General Wood speaks eloquently on National preparedness before National Education Association * * * Allies slacken their Somme drive as Russians increase blow * * * General offensive pressing Germans on all fronts * * * Italians still gain.

1917
Fighting on Aisne fiercest of war * * * Hindenburg and Ludendorff leave front to attend Council at call of Kaiser * * * U. S. General Staff opposes Roosevelt army * * * Plans completed for drafting * * * Socialists in Chicago vote war unjustified * * * Germans in biggest air raid on London killed 27, losing three machines * * * 24 French aircraft raid Germany * * * Russians begin new offensive in Pinsk Marshes, 200 miles north of Galicia * * * Mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York City, cheers Bakhtin, Envoy of Revolutionary Government.

1918
Russians of Murman Coast break with bolsheviks and join allies * * * Czech-Slovak forces have advanced 375 miles into Siberia; capture Chita, important Trans-Siberian railroad town * * * New peace feeler by Austria failing; Germany sends three army corps to aid * * * "Teutonic" loss in striking power revealed at Hamel where tanks overran disease-shaken foe; Spanish influenza raging among them * * * British advance on two-mile front Aisne Somme * * * Admiral Von Capelle informs Reichstag of U-boat success * * * Total American casualties to date, 11,987 * * * Norwegian sailing ship Marosa sunk by German submarine 1,200 miles east of New York * * * British airmen bomb Constantinople.

TRIBUTE TO A. C. CRUCE

(From the Oklahoma City News)

Besides those attributes which made him great professionally, depth of mind, breadth of vision, education, and wealth of common sense, A. C. Cruce possessed in full measure those qualities of the heart that make what we call character—sympathy and consideration for others.

The whole state has known him as a noted lawyer. But those whose privilege it was to know him personally were the ones who felt most directly the inspiration of his fine personality. In the death of A. C. Cruce, Oklahoma loses one of the greatest men in all her history.

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